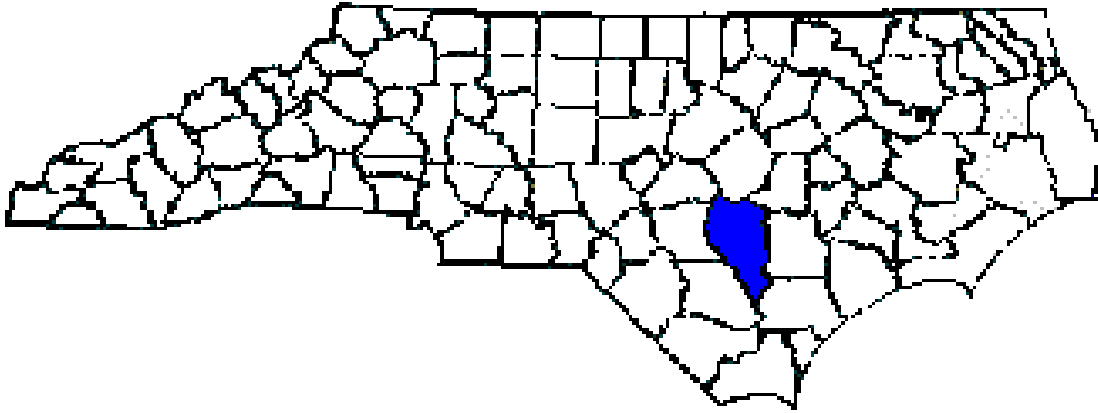


ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2008



**Big Swamp Mitigation Site
Sampson County
TIP No. B-4271**



Prepared By:
Natural Environment Unit & Roadside Environmental Unit
North Carolina Department of Transportation
July 2008

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SUMMARY	1
1.0 Introduction	2
.1 Project Description	2
.2 Purpose	2
.3 Project History	2
2.0 Vegetation:	3
.1 Success Criteria	3
.2 Description of Species.....	3
.3 Results of Vegetation Monitoring	3
.4 Conclusions.	3
3.0 Overall Conclusions and Recommendations	3

FIGURES

Figure 1 – Site Location Map	4
------------------------------------	---

APPENDICES

Appendix A – Site Photos	
--------------------------	--

SUMMARY

The Big Swamp Mitigation Site is located in Sampson County. The site was planted in March 2008 and was designed as wetland mitigation for impacts associated with bridge project B-4271.

The mitigation encompasses approximately 0.06 acres total of wetland restoration with 0.03 acres of the restoration occurring beneath the new bridge span. The restoration effort involved removing causeway fill and transition area along both approaches to Bridge No. 98 to match the adjacent wetland evaluation. The restoration area was re-vegetated with bottomland hardwood species. Hydrologic monitoring is not required for this project; however vegetation monitoring is required for three years.

After the first year of monitoring, the Big Swamp Mitigation Site shows by visual observation that the restoration area is re-attaining wetland jurisdictional status and tree species planted in the wetland restoration area are surviving in some of the planted areas. The areas where the planted species did not survive will be supplementally planted in 2009.

NCDOT proposes to continue vegetation monitoring of this site.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Description

The Big Swamp Mitigation Site is located at Bridge No. 98 on SR 1246 over Big Swamp (Figure 1). The site consists of approximately 0.06 acres of mitigation for wetland impacts associated with project B-4271.

1.2 Purpose

In order for a mitigation site to be considered successful, the site must meet vegetation success criteria. This report details the vegetation monitoring in 2008 at the Big Swamp Mitigation Site. Hydrologic monitoring was not required for the site.

1.3 Project History

March 2008	Site Planted
July 2008	Visual Monitoring (1 year)

2.0 VEGETATION: BIG SWAMP MITIGATION SITE (YEAR 1 MONITORING)

2.1 Success Criteria

NCDOT shall monitor the restoration site by visual observation and photo points for survival and aerial cover of vegetation. NCDOT shall monitor the site for a minimum of three years or until the site is deemed successful. Monitoring will be initiated upon completion of the site planting.

2.2 Description of Species

The following tree species were planted in the Wetland Reforestation area:

Liriodendron tulipifera, Tulip Poplar

Platanis occidentalis, Sycamore

Fraxinus pennsylvanica, Green Ash

2.3 Results of Vegetation Monitoring

The wetland restoration area is re-attaining jurisdictional status and the planted species are surviving in some of the planted areas. The areas where the planted species did not survive will be supplementally planted in 2009.

Site Notes: Other species noted: woolgrass, briars, *Sagittaria* sp., *Juncus* sp., ragweed, red maple, sweetgum, and various wetland species.

2.4 Conclusions

There were approximately 0.06 acres total of wetland restoration on site. There were no plots established on the site. By visual observation, the Big Swamp Mitigation Site shows that the planted species are surviving in some of the planted areas and that the restoration area is re-attaining wetland jurisdictional status.

3.0 OVERALL CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

NCDOT proposes to continue vegetation monitoring at the Big Swamp Mitigation Site.

APPENDIX A

SITE PHOTOS

Big Swamp Mitigation Site



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4